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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of liberty, as America's birthday approaches, help us to know in this land the meaning and purpose of our freedom. May our Senators seek freedom with justice, freedom to choose righteousness, and freedom to do the right thing with judicious governmental intervention. Give our lawmakers such liberty of soul that their gratitude might merge with their commitment to honor You in word and deed. Give each of us a sense of responsibility for his or her share in the democratic processes, as we earnestly seek for good government, exercising our influence responsibly.

Lord, we pray that You would bless the members of our departing page class.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 30, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon. The first hour will be under the control of the majority, and Republicans will control the second hour. Following morning business, the Senate will be in executive session to consider the nomination of David Petraeus to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

At about 2 p.m., then, there will be a vote on the confirmation of David Petraeus. Additional rollcall votes are possible during today's session of the Senate.

### DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this weekend we will celebrate Independence Day and 235 years of this country's very proud history. This Nation was founded on the notion of liberty and justice for all. As we celebrate, we should remember that the pursuit of liberty is not just a journey with a destination but, rather, a quest to which we must recommit ourselves every single day. As we commit fully and firmly to liberty and justice, we must commit just as fully and firmly to the idea that the liberty and justice should be truly for all.

It is often said that with liberty comes responsibility. We should take that responsibility seriously. I am confident we do. That is why the Senate will reconvene on Tuesday, the day after the Fourth. We will do that because we have work to do. We will be in session that week—that is next week—with our first vote on July 5. We will determine what time that vote will be on July 5, likely in the afternoon because of the travel problems with the Fourth of July the previous day. There is still so much to do to put Americans back to work, cut our deficit, get our economy back to work. It is very important we do this. That moment is too important, the obstacles too steep, and the time too short to waste even a moment.

I hope my Republican colleagues will put politics aside and help Democrats fulfill Congress's responsibility to the American people. There are some Republicans in Congress who say the U.S. Government has less responsibility to pay its bills than struggling families

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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